

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
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R 191454Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5324
INFO AMEMBASSY ANTANARIVO
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 5044

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORC, PBOR, OAU, ET, SO
SUBJECT: MEDIATION EFFORTS OVER OGADEN CONFLICT

REFS: A) ADDIS 5000 B) ANTANANIRIVO 1484 C) ADDIS 4996

1. MALAGASY MEDIATION DELEGATION IS NOW IN ADDIS ABABA FROM MOGADISCIO FOR TALKS WITH EPMG LEADERS ON MEANS TO RESOLVE ETHIO-SOMALI CONFLICT OVER OGADEN. (EARLIER REPORT THEY WERE HERE AUG 16 WAS INCORRECT.) ETHIOPIAN OFFICIAL HAS CONFIRMED THAT THERE WILL ALSO BE FOLLOW-UP EFFORTS BY OAU GOOD OFFICES COMMITTEE WITH SIMILAR GOAL, ALTHOUGH WHAT DIRECTION THESE WILL TAKE IS STILL UNCLEAR BEYOND INDICATIONS REFTEL A.

2. CAMEROON AMBASSADOR DICKO, ONE OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS, IS PESSIMISTIC ABOUT OAU'S ABILITY TO ACCOMPLISH MUCH. HE AND MOST OTHERS CONTINUE TO SEE VIRTUALLY NO CHANCE OF OAU CON-
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VENING COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING IN RESPONSE TO ETHIOPIAN REQUEST. OAU CANNOT ITSELF TAKE DISPUTE TO UN, DESPITE OAU PRESIDENT BONGO'S APPARENT RECENT PUBLIC REFERENCE TO THE POSSIBILITY (INCLUDING APPARENTLY A REFERENCE TO A UN PEACE-KEEPING FORCE), SINCE OAU IS NOT SOVEREIGN STATE, AND DICKO DOUBTS THAT ANY INDIVIDUAL COUNTRY WILL DO SO. WHILE MOST OAU MEMBERS HAVE SYMPATHY FOR ETHIOPIA'S PLIGHT, AC-

CORDING TO DICKO, MODERATES' DISLIKE OF ETHIOPIAN "MASSACRES" GETS IN WAY, AND SOME OF PROGRESSIVES DO NOT LIKE ETHIOPIA'S "METHODS" (NOT SPECIFIED).

3. DISCUSSING LIBREVILLE MEETING, DICKO SAID HOWU MEMBERS WERE PRIMARILY CONCERNED WITH REAFFIRMING TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY ISSUE. CONTRARY TO HIS EXPECTATIONS, GROUP DID NOT TAKE US OR UK TO TASK FOR THEIR ANNOUNCED INTENTIONS RE ARMS FOR SOMALIA. ETHIOPIANS DID NOT TRY TO PROVE THEIR CLAIM THAT SOMALI REGULARS WERE IN OGADEN. COMMITTEE HAD ALREADY BEEN PRETTY MUCH CONVINCED ON THIS SCORE, THANKS TO KENYAN COMPLAINT RAISED AT OAU MINISTERIAL MEETING IN LATE JUNE. DICKO MADE SPECIAL POINT OF NOTING THAT CONCLUDING RECOMMENDATION OF GOOD OFFICES COMMITTEE EMPHASIZED CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES, RATHER THAN CEASE FIRE, WHICH LATTER COULD MEAN IN HIS VIEW THAT COMBATANTS WOULD LAY THEIR ARMS DOWN IN PLACE.
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